



RETURN

[116a]

SUPPLEMENTARY RETURN TO AN ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated the 11th May, 1903, for copies of all Orders in Council, memorials, letters, telegrams and other correspondence, and all other documents and communications in writing, between the first day of January, 1897, and the first day of May, 1903, relating to, or concerning, or in any way having reference to the granting of provincial autonomy to the North-west Territories, or the creation of the said Territories into a Province, or Provinces.

R. W. SCOTT,
Secretary of State.

OTTAWA, January 30, 1901.

The Hon. CLIFFORD SIFTON,
Minister of the Interior, Ottawa.

Following up the discussion between you, Mr. Ross and myself, on the subject of the North-west Assembly memorial of May 2 last, I now beg, agreeably to your request, to make a further statement in writing.

The memorial while leading to definite constitutional changes, approaches the subject from the financial point of view and points out how, in the opinion of the Legislature, our legislative jurisdiction and administrative responsibilities have been enlarged and increased out of all proportion to the means placed at our disposal. I need not enlarge on this side of the question, as it has already been placed very fully before you in the financial statements furnished to you for the past two years by my colleague Mr. Ross. While financial embarrassments rather than constitutional aspirations have led the North-west Government and Legislature to discuss the provincial status, I think that sufficient practical reasons can be given for the early establishment of provincial institutions in the West. We have a rapidly growing population, much larger, as the census will show, than that of British Columbia ten years ago, and than that of Prince Edward Island to-day; a population trained to the exercise of powers of self-government falling a little short only of those enjoyed by the Provinces. For nearly thirteen years the North-west Legislative Assembly has been occupied with founding local institutions and a body of laws suitable to the condition and circumstances of the country. Our parliamentary vote is apparently incapable of expansion at all in proportion to the needs of a rapidly developing country and our powers circumscribed as they are by the necessities our present anomalous constitutional position, fall short just at the point

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY TO THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES

3-4 EDWARD VII, A. 1904.

where further progress demands their exercise. The Territories have arrived at a point, where by reason of their population and material development, the larger powers and larger income of a Province have become necessary. I have already in former communications pointed out to you how our limited powers are still more limited by the reservation of subjects such as the Land Titles law, the administration of the criminal law and the control of the public domain. It is undoubtedly in the interest of any Province or Provinces hereafter to be established, that the important questions surrounding the subject of the public domain should be settled at once, and before any more of the public lands of the Territories are alienated from the Crown.

For these and other reasons which need not be advanced at length, I would ask you to urge the earliest possible action on the part of the Government on the lines suggested and with the object proposed by the Assembly Memorial.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OTTAWA, March 21, 1901.

Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Regina, Assa.

Referring to your communication of January 30, and the conversations which I had with yourself and Mr. Ross in Ottawa, I may say that I realize very fully the difficulties of the position in which the Government and Legislative Assembly of the North-west Territories is placed, and I admit that there is very much in the suggestions which are made in your letter and in the memorial regarding the necessity of a change in the constitutional and financial position of the Territories.

Without at the present moment committing myself to any positive statement I am prepared to say that the time has arrived when the question of organizing the Territories on the provincial basis ought to be the subject of full consideration. It would appear to me that the better way of bringing the matter to a more definite position would be to arrange for a conference upon the subject between the representatives of your Government and a committee of Council representing the Federal Government. I shall be pleased to bring about arrangements for such a conference at any time that is mutually convenient.

CLIFFORD SIFTON.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,

REGINA, March 30, 1901.

The Honourable CLIFFORD SIFTON
Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

I duly received your letter of the 21st instant, from which I was pleased to learn that you are of opinion that the time has arrived when the question of organising the Territories on the provincial basis ought to be the subject of full consideration, and I will be glad to arrange for a conference upon the subject between representatives of the Territorial Government and the Privy Council at the earliest date convenient to you. The Legislative Assembly has been summoned for the second day of May and, while it would be impossible for us to be absent during the six weeks following that date, I think that it would be well that the discussion should be advanced as far as possible before the Legislature meets.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Attorney General.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OTTAWA, April 5, 1901.Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Regina, Assa.

I have your letter of the 30th ultimo. I regret to say that with every desire to advance the discussion of matters relating to the status of the Territories; I fear that it will be totally impossible for us to have a meeting before your Legislature assembles. The latter portion of the session of Parliament here finds all the members of the Government extremely busy, and it would be hopeless to expect from them that mature and careful consideration of the various and important subjects which will require to be debated and settled in connection with the establishment of the Territories as a province or upon a provincial basis. I think I shall therefore be compelled to ask you to defer the discussion until after Parliament has prorogued.

CLIFFORD SIFTON.

(Telegram.)

REGINA, N.W.T., June 4, 1901.

Hon. C. SIFTON,
Minister of Interior,
Ottawa.

Can you arrange early meeting for us with sub-committee of council before ministers disperse for summer? Any time after 15th will suit us.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

(Telegram.)

OTTAWA, June 5, 1901.

Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Regina, Assa.

It is impossible to settle date of conference now. Finance Minister must be present. He has gone to England and is not expected back until August.

CLIFFORD SIFTON.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,
REGINA, January 11, 1902.

The Right Honourable
Sir WILFRID LAURIER, G.C.M.G.,
President of the Council, Ottawa.

I am forwarding you by this mail fifteen printed copies of Mr. Haultain's letter sent you in December, as being more convenient for the use of the different members of the Cabinet, in considering the question.

ARTHUR L. SIFTON.

PRIVY COUNCIL, CANADA,
OTTAWA, January 22, 1902.

ARTHUR L. SIFTON, Esq.,
Office of the Executive Council,
Regina, N.W.T.

I have the honour, by direction of the Prime Minister, to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of January 11, and of the copies of Mr. Haultain's letter, and to state that due consideration will be given thereto.

R. BOUDREAU,
Private Secretary.

3-4 EDWARD VII, A. 1904.

OTTAWA, March 27, 1902.

Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Regina, Assa.

Absence from Ottawa due to ill-health has prevented me from communicating with you on the subjects discussed by you and your colleague when here respecting the financial and constitutional status of the North-west Territories. I presume, however, that you would have gathered our views from the expressions of opinion which took place during our interviews, and our conclusions will not therefore, I trust, come in the way of a surprise.

It is the view of the Government that it will not be wise at the present time to pass legislation forming the North-west Territories into a Province or Provinces. Some of the reasons leading to this view may be found in the fact that the population of the Territories is yet sparse; that the rapid increase in population now taking place will in a short time alter the conditions to be dealt with very materially, and that there is a considerable divergence of opinion respecting the question whether there should be one province only, or more than one province. Holding this view, therefore, it will not be necessary for me to discuss the details of the draft bill which you presented as embodying your views.

Respecting the present financial requirements, the question of an increase in your subsidy is now receiving consideration, but the result cannot, as you are aware, be communicated until the Estimates are brought before Parliament. This I have every reason to hope will take place in a very short time.

CLIFFORD SIFTON.

REGINA, April 2, 1902.

Honourable CLIFFORD SIFTON,
Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa, Ont.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 27, conveying the decision of the Government with regard to the financial and constitutional question which have been the subject of discussion during the past year and a half. So far from your conclusions not coming as a surprise as you suggest, I must say quite frankly that the decision of the Government has come not only as a surprise, but as a deep disappointment as well. In your letter of March 21, 1901, you say:

'I may say that I realize very fully the difficulties of the position in which the Government and Legislative Assembly of the North-west Territories is placed, and I admit that there is very much in the suggestions which are made in your letter and in the memorial regarding the necessity of a change in the constitutional and financial position of the Territories.'

'Without at the present moment committing myself to any positive statement I am prepared to say that the time has arrived when the question of organizing the Territories on the Provincial basis ought to be the subject of full consideration. It would appear to me that the better way of bringing the matter to a more definite position would be to arrange for a conference upon the subject between the representatives of your Government and a Committee of Council representing the Federal Government.'

Again on April 5, 1901, you write:

'The latter portion of the Session of Parliament here finds all the Members of the Government extremely busy, and it would be hopeless to expect from them that mature and careful consideration of the various and important subjects which will require to be debated and settled in connection with the establishment of the Territories as a Province or upon the Provincial basis, I think I shall therefore be compelled to ask you to defer the discussion until after Parliament has prorogued.'

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 116a

These opinions and the long delay that followed, in order to choose a convenient time for that 'mature and careful consideration of the various and important subjects which will require to be debated and settled in connection with the establishment of the Territories as a Province or upon a Provincial basis,' led us to suppose that when the subject was finally taken up it would be taken up with a view to immediate settlement. The written statements, which have been made by me, must have proved conclusively that the necessity for the change was a pressing one and that we had arrived at a point when our constitutional and financial position was not adequate to the proper performance of the duties devolving upon us. Recognising this state of affairs we have gone to the Dominion Government and have said: 'If you cannot or will not deal with the questions which have arisen in the Territories give us the powers and the income which would justly accompany those powers and allow us to work out our own salvation.' To this you answer: 'That it is the view of the Government that it will not be wise at the present time to pass legislation forming the North-west Territories into a Province or Provinces.' One of the reasons given for this position is: 'That the population of the Territories is sparse.' I might point out that we have at least ten times the population of Manitoba when it was erected into a Province, and a larger population than that Province had so lately as 1891; a considerably larger population than the Province of Prince Edward Island, and with the immigration of the present season a considerably larger population than the Province of British Columbia according to the late census.

Another reason advanced is: 'That the rapid increase in population now taking place will in a short time alter the conditions to be dealt with very materially.' This rapid increase in population is one of the principal reasons why we are asking to be formed into a province, in order that we may be able to deal with the new conditions that it brings about. The longer it goes on without the change the more aggravated the present difficulties will become.

With regard to a divergence of opinion as to one or more provinces, I might say that that is a difficulty which will always exist and which any postponement of action will not remove.

I must also say, on behalf of the North-west Government, that after having been asked to meet a sub-committee of the Privy Council, and to state our case not only verbally but in writing, it is extremely unsatisfactory that the Government has come to the conclusion: 'That it will not be necessary to discuss the details of the draft bill which embodied our views.' This is a conclusion to the negotiations which have been held which we could hardly have expected considering the importance of the subject discussed and the formal manner in which the discussion has taken place.

We cannot but regret that the Government has not been able to recognise the urgent necessity for the change that has been asked, and can only trust that as you have denied us the opportunity of helping ourselves you will be at least impressed with the necessity and the duty, which is now yours, of meeting the pressing necessities of these rapidly developing territories. While we may, in your opinion, without inconvenience, mark time constitutionally, we cannot do without the transportation facilities, the roads, the bridges, the schools and the other improvements which our rapidly growing population imperatively requires, and at once. Whether we are made into a province or not, our financial necessities are just as real, and in conclusion I can only trust that when the question of an increase to our subsidy is receiving consideration, more weight will be given to our representations in that respect than has been given to our requests for constitutional changes.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

3-4 EDWARD VII, A. 1904.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, REGINA, February 3, 1903.

The Right Honourable

Sir WILFRID LAURIER, G.C.M.G.,

President of the Privy Council, Ottawa.

I have the honour to enclose a memorandum supplementary to the printed statement submitted to you on December 7, 1901, relating to the establishment of provincial institutions in the North-west Territories.

The large immigration of the year just closed, together with the prospect of a still larger immigration in the present year and the years to follow, make it necessary for me to change some of the figures in the printed statement referred to.

The memorandum will refer by number to the sections in the draft bill submitted in the printed statement, and may be considered as supplementary to, or amending, the explanatory memorandum appended to each section of the draft.

I might say with regard to the financial clauses of the draft bill that they are based, of course, upon the law and the practice prevailing at the present time. Should the demands made by the Inter-provincial Conference be acceded to by your Government our subsidies would presumably be paid upon the same basis.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES OF CANADA,
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, REGINA, February 3, 1903.

(Memorandum.)

Section 4.—In the printed statement a request for an initial parliamentary representation of ten (10) based upon expectation of population, is made.

The immigration for the past two years, as shown by the reports of the Department of the Interior, added to the population as shown by the last census, would give us a present population of 250,000; that means that we are at the present moment entitled to a representation of ten (10) members in the House of Commons.

The estimated increase for the present year of 100,000 would entitle us to four (4) additional members by the end of the year, or, as the immigration season closes in the early summer, it would be fair to say that before Parliament prorogues the Territories will be entitled, on actual population, to a representation of fourteen members.

As there is every indication that the movement of population into the Territories will continue in larger proportions for some years to come, it is fair to presume that long before the next census is taken our representation in Parliament will be very much less, proportionately to population, than that of any other portion of Canada.

A very conservative estimate for the year 1904 and the years following to the date of the next census would be an increase of 250,000, which would mean a population of not less than 600,000 at the end of the year 1910. Estimating that these figures are based upon reasonable expectations, we should be granted a representation of not less than twenty (20) until the next census is taken, after which, of course, the provisions of the British North America Act would govern.

Section 22.—The amounts mentioned in clause (b) of this section should be changed as follows:—The per capita allowance at the rate of eighty cents (80) should be paid on an initial population of 400,000, estimated on the figures set forth in the supplementary note to section 4.

Section 23.—As the legislation creating the new province cannot reasonably be expected to come into effect until the latter part of the present year, the debt allowance should be paid upon an initial population of 350,000 based upon expectations already mentioned.

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY TO THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES

7

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 116a

(*Telegram.*)

February 5, 1903.

Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Regina, N.W.T.

Have arranged for committee of Council to meet yourself and Mr. Bulyea on question of financial grant for coming year. Think you should bring your accountant with full details of proposed expenditure for next year.

CLIFFORD SIFTON.

OTTAWA, February 16, 1903.

Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Attorney General and Premier,
Regina, Assa., N.-W. T.

I have the honour, by direction, to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3rd instant, addressed to the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister, which has been referred to the Minister of the Interior, and in which you inclose a memorandum supplementary to the printed statement submitted to the Premier on December 7, 1901, in regard to the establishment of provincial institutions in the North-West Territories.

P. G. KEYES, Secretary.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, REGINA, February 11, 1903.

The Hon. CLIFFORD SIFTON,
Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

When I received your telegram announcing the appointment of the sub-committee of Council to confer with Mr. Bulyea and me on the North-west financial questions, I was under the impression that Mr. Bulyea having been in Ottawa about that date was aware of the intended appointment. Since then I have had both letters and telegrams from him which would lead me to suppose that he does not know about the appointment, and as he will not return to Ottawa from New Brunswick until Monday or Tuesday, I must ask you to postpone any meeting of the sub-committee until after that date. Any day after Tuesday the 17th instant will suit us, and the earliest day after then that is most convenient to you will be most convenient to us.

I should like to ask the consideration by the sub-committee of Council of our provincial proposition. The question of the financial assistance this year will, of course, necessarily be discussed, whether the Government decide to take action on the provincial question or not, as in any event the present system would remain in existence this year, or at least for the greater part of it. The question is such an important one and the necessity so urgent that in addition to any statement on the subject which I have already made I would again urge on you the importance of its immediate settlement.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

OTTAWA, February 21, 1903.

The Hon. CLIFFORD SIFTON,
Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

Following our interview yesterday morning with the sub-committee of Council arranged by you in accordance with your telegraphed communication of the fifth instant, and in compliance with the request made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the close of the

3-4 EDWARD VII, A. 1904.

interview, I submit herewith certain details explanatory of the several items of estimates of amounts required to be provided for public purposes in the Territories during the current year, submitted by my predecessor in the office of treasurer of the Territories in his letter to you of December 17, last. I will take the items one by one and subjoin the explanations and other remarks which seem necessary to be made.

Civil government \$ 80,000.

Reference was made in the course of our interview to the fact that our legislative appropriation for this purpose in 1902 was only \$53,581.94. In connection with the apparent increase here I may point out two things: First, that our actual expenditure under this heading in 1902 was \$58,230.51 (\$43,519.59 for salaries and \$14,710.92 for expenses) the amount expended over and above the legislative appropriation being authorized by warrant; and, secondly, that for the future we propose to charge to this appropriation a number of salaries of officials and office expenses hitherto borne by other appropriations. These officials are to all intents and purposes just as permanently employed as those who have been paid out of the civil government vote, and it is proposed to reorganize our public service and to make provision for carrying these officials where they properly belong; by doing so we do not increase our expenditure, but simply transfer to civil government a number of charges we are now meeting in other ways. When that is done our present expenditure for salaries under civil government by departments will be as follows:—

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| Salaries of members of the government..... | \$ 9,500 |
| Executive Council Office..... | 2,940 |
| Attorney General's Department..... | 5,540 |
| Territorial Secretary's Department | 1,780 |
| Treasury Department (including Audit Office)..... | 9,540 |
| Public Works Department..... | 16,070 |
| Agriculture Department..... | 8,890 |
| Education Department | 5,640 |
| | 8 59,890 |

To this must be added an amount of at least \$15,000 to cover the departmental incidental expenditure (travelling expenses, printing, postages, telegrams, office and stationery supplies, etc). Last year, as shown above, the amount of this class of expenditure charged to civil government was \$14,710.92. We are therefore at the present time making expenditures for this purpose at the rate of \$75,000 per annum (\$60,000 for salaries and \$15,000 for expenses) with the prospect of an increase in that rate as the year goes on, particularly in the direction of public works and education. Our business is naturally growing with our population, and the experience of the past few years has shown that every estimate considered ample to meet all requirements at the beginning of any year has failed to be so. It may be within your knowledge also that during the past few months a number of our most valued officials have resigned from our service to accept other appointments at considerably advanced remuneration. These are conditions, not theories, we are face to face with, and the narrow margin between \$75,000 and \$80,000 does not allow much to work on.

Legislation..... \$45,000

This amount provides for payment of the sessional indemnity and travelling expenses of members of the legislature; salaries of officials of the house; printing of the reports presented to the assembly and of the bills and ordinances, in connection with which it may be stated that a number of our ordinances, notably schools, local improvement, municipal and others of the like nature are being very largely distributed amongst the new settlers and people in other countries who wish to acquaint themselves with our conditions.

A considerable increase may be noted under this heading. The increase was intended to provide for the following:—

1. An increase in the membership of the Legislature from 31 to 35.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 116a

2. A considerably increased expenditure upon sessional printing, both in the reports and papers presented to the House and also in the work of legislation :

3. The cost of several by-elections. We have already had three such elections since last May, and at the time the estimate submitted to you was prepared, it was then considered necessary to contemplate provision for two others, one of which, at the general election, resulted in liabilities amounting to some \$8,000.

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| Administration of Justice and ordinances..... | \$20,000 |
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This class of expenditure is increasing steadily with the influx of population. The most important item in the expenditure is incurred in the administration of the liquor license law, whilst the work of carrying on public prosecutions and other legal proceedings is steadily growing.

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| Public Works..... | \$400,000 |
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My attention was directed during our interview to an apparent increase in estimated expenditure upon this service of \$140,000 over last year (from \$260,000 to \$400,000). It may be first stated that the sum of \$260,000 was the amount appropriated by the Assembly as being the smallest amount with which it seemed possible to make any attempt to deal with public works. The conditions set forth by the late treasurer in his letter of December 17, last, necessitated an absolute abandonment of all plans in order to face the results of those conditions. To do that, it was found necessary to obtain executive authority under the law for the payment of accounts aggregating in the neighbourhood of \$40,000 over and above the \$260,000 authorized by the House. Under those joint authorities expenditures amounting to \$299,252.86 were made. I understand that you have already been advised of this fact. So that, speaking in round figures, the sum of \$300,000 was paid out last year upon the expenditures ranging themselves under the generic term, 'Public Works.' In addition, up to February 10, we had paid out this year for similar services rendered last year the sum of \$39,892.96. When I left Regina there were then in the office other accounts not paid, for liabilities contracted in 1902, amounting to \$14,853.16, besides which there was every reason to think—and I believe the estimate to be a most moderate one—that there are similar accounts still to be rendered which will amount to a further sum of \$20,000. So that, out of the \$400,000 estimated to be required for public works, before a stroke of work is done this year, provision will have to be made for the expenditure of some \$75,000 upon liabilities incurred before the end of last year. This money will have to come out of our revenue for this year though the liability was created before the close of our last fiscal period. So that our expenditures upon public works during last year and the liabilities of the year left unpaid until this year amounted in all to about \$375,000. We are asking \$400,000 this year, out of which last year's balance of \$75,000 will have to be met, and that will leave us \$325,000 which is \$50,000 less than our last year's works actually cost. We are, of course, not anticipating any recurrence of the disastrous floods of last year, but we are keeping in mind the fact that last year's climatic conditions practically stopped all new works in contemplation and left us at the end of the year with an accumulation of works known to be imperatively required which, together with the regular and necessary services, the department estimates it will cost over \$700,000 to carry on. This amount will be largely added to in the course of the next few weeks, when the immigration season may be expected to open, as you are well aware that what has already been done to provide public facilities for travel, etc., has little or no effect in meeting the requirements of new settlers. Illustrations without number might be adduced, but I will content myself with but one. The newspapers have for some time past been giving prominence to an immigration movement from England, headed by a clergyman named Barr. I would point out that, as I understand his project, he proposes to plant a large colony of people between the North Branch of the Saskatchewan and the Battle Rivers, some hundred miles west of Battleford. Now, after a short distance west of Battleford is passed, that district, as far as roads or bridges are concerned, is practically beyond the bounds of civilization. A hundred miles of roads with bridges here and there cannot

3-4 EDWARD VII, A. 1904.

be built by a stroke of the pen or in any other way than by the expenditure of time and money. I notice that Mr. Barr holds out prospects of remunerative work in railway and other road construction. With respect to that feature of the case I have only this remark to make: we have no such work in contemplation. And yet it is very easy to realise that, if something is not done to help these people in their early western life, it will not be likely to be of that satisfied and contented nature that will induce a continuation of that form of immigration. Rather the contrary. I have already mentioned the fact that we have services to perform and works in view estimated to cost \$700,000 to complete, and have also referred to another class of works it is impossible to estimate upon, but which may readily run up the expenditure to \$1,000,000. To meet those public requirements, we are asking the government to provide for something less than one third the latter amount. Not that we think all requirements can be satisfied with the expenditure of \$325,000 this year, but we will undertake to do the best we can with that amount and make it go as far as possible. In order to support my statement as to the works to be carried on by the Public Works Department, I submit the following details. They are not intended to be exhaustive but as simply indicating the nature of the works:

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

We are in occupation of a group of three buildings belonging to the Dominion Government and also rent other buildings for office and other purposes. These buildings have to be maintained in repair, heated, lighted, kept clean, &c. Based upon last year's expenditures, the cost of this work is as follows:—

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| Legislative Assembly buildings..... | \$ 800 |
| Public Works building..... | 2,600 |
| Executive Council, &c., building..... | 2,000 |
| Education, &c., building..... | 2,500 |
| Normal School buildings (at Regina and other places)..... | 1,500 |
| Maintenance of grounds, messengers, communication with town, &c..... | 1,850 |

DISTRICT SURVEYORS AND ENGINEERS.

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| Including cost of surveys, engineering work, salaries and allowances, wages, &c., of field parties, instruments, iron posts, compensation for land taken for main highways, diversions from road allowances to overcome obstructions, reservoirs, &c..... | 85,000 |
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BRIDGES.

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| There are now twenty-five bridge gangs working at an average cost of \$25 per day. There is now on hand more than sufficient work to keep them all employed for 250 days this year, at a cost of..... | 156,250 |
| Bridge material and freight charges thereon (appended hereto will be found a copy of the present bridge list)..... | 170,000 |

ROADS.

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| Improvement to roads generally, grading hillsides, filling holes, putting in culverts, &c..... | 75,000 |
| (In this connection I might remind you of the representations made to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and yourself this morning by the gentlemen who represented the convention held some little time ago in the District of Alberta, for the purpose of attempting to deal with the difficulties the people of that section of the West are meeting with on account of the condition of their roads. These conditions are by no means confined to Alberta, but are general all over the country, and the statements made by the delegates from the Northern Alberta Good Roads Convention are equally appropriate in their general terms to every other part of the West where conditions are changing through the influx of population.) | |
| Equipment of road and bridge gangs, including tools, road machines, &c..... | 7,500 |
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DAMS AND RESERVOIRS.

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| Including repairs to dams already constructed..... | 9,000 |
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SESSIONAL PAPER No. 116a

FERRIES.

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| Repairs, launching, operation, hauling out, &c., twenty old ferries (over and above fees collected by ferrymen)..... | \$ 14,000 |
| New ferries on North Saskatchewan River between Prince Albert and Edmonton, to meet requirements of new settlers, and also on South Saskatchewan River, between Forks and Medicine Hat, for the same purpose; over Belly River at Lethbridge and the Old Man River at MacLeod, pending reconstruction by Dominion Government of bridges carried out by floods of 1902 | 15,000 |

FIRE GUARDS.

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| Along railway lines to protect life and property owing to neglect of railway companies to do the work..... | 35,000 |
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WATER SUPPLY.

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| Operation--eight Austin well-boring machines and their repair and maintenance; and also the purchase price and operation of two deep well-boring machines capable of boring to a depth of 3,000 feet | 60,790 |
| Payment of men in charge of twenty test augers and repairs to machines. These machines are used in making tests for water in districts where the depth at which water may be obtained is known to be not more than 100 feet..... | 750 |

DRAINAGE.

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| Purchase price of three new steam ditching machines and scows, also repairs to two old machines..... | 12,000 |
| Operating five ditching machines from April 15 to November 15..... | 26,000 |
| Drains to be constructed by other appliances | 17,250 |

(Two ditching machines were in operation last year in the vicinities of Fort Saskatchewan and Edmonton, upon works where, in seasons such as the Territories have been experiencing for some years past, it would be impossible to perform drainage work by hand or horse power for the improvement of roads to meet the requirements of the large incoming settlement owing to the wet condition of the country. A like condition prevails in Central Alberta, (vide Good Roads petition) at some points in which it is proposed to operate one of the new machines this year. The fourth will be placed in the vicinity of Yellowgrass, in Assiniboia, and the fifth will be operated near Prince Albert and Duck Lake in Saskatchewan, where conditions prevail similar to those about Edmonton.

It is the intention to operate these machines in sections of the country where it is impossible on account of the wet condition of the land, to perform the work by any other means, and along drainage channels such as creeks and chains of sloughs into which additional drainage may be found by the construction of subsidiary drainage channels.

There are at present approximately 150 drainage systems to be undertaken, only a very few of which have as yet been commenced.)

INSPECTION OF COAL MINES.

| | |
|---|-------|
| Salary of inspector and travelling expenses | 2,200 |
| (I may here incidentally direct your attention to the fact that we are called upon to make this expenditure on account of the number of coal mines now being operated in the Territories. | |

The working of these mines must be regulated in the interest of the lives of the men employed in them. Though the cost of the service is not very great at present, it is growing like everything else in the country, and it has to be borne out of an income far too small in itself, whilst the revenues derived from the sale of coal lands and those which might well be derived from royalties upon the mineral itself all go into the Federal exchequer.

INSPECTION OF STEAM BOILERS.

| | |
|---|-------|
| Salaries of four inspectors and travelling expenses, administration of ordinance generally including examination of engineers | 7,920 |
|---|-------|

EDUCATION.

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Education | 250,000 |
| " further estimate | 16,000 |
| | \$ 266,000 |

I do not know that anything can more clearly establish the mutability of our present conditions, and the imperative necessity for dealing with our financial matters

3-4 EDWARD VII, A. 1904.

upon a generous and elastic basis, than the item now under consideration. Early in December last a carefully prepared estimate of probable conditions in 1903 resulted in a request being made to you for a grant of \$250,000 as being the amount required on account of 950 schools. Since that time applications then unforeseen have been received in the Department from which it is clearly seen that the number of schools which will be established and commenced in April next will be in the neighbourhood of 1,020 instead of 950. I therefore feel it necessary to ask your permission to amend the estimate of December 17 by adding to it an additional amount of \$16,000 to meet what it is now evident will be a deficit of that amount should no more than the sum of \$250,000 be granted for this purpose.

Agriculture and Statistics \$50,000

The work to be carried on by means of the above grant is the general assistance and encouragement of the agricultural and pastoral interests of the Territories, by making grants to Agricultural Societies, arranging for a uniform and competent judging at exhibits, the promotion of the importation and development of the production of pure bred stock; the promotion of the work of agricultural institutes, live stock, dairy and other similar associations, the destruction of predatory animals and noxious weeds, etc. Speaking generally, the grant is intended to provide for an active interest being taken in all that concerns the farmers and ranchers of the West who constitute almost our entire population. The work of the Agricultural Department is purely administrative, a great deal of work being done that does not incur any expenditure.

The department is also charged with the collection and compilation of vital and other statistics. The general value of this work is admitted, not so much in the present as for the future.

Hospitals, Charities and Public health \$25,000

There are a number of hospitals in existence in various parts of the Territories, and their number is being added to from time to time. They are each assisted by a small per diem grant upon the number of patients treated. None of these institutions are self-supporting and the assistance given is not so extensive as to be more than aid in providing necessary conveniences for their proper equipment and maintenance.

We have also a small number of unfortunate people afflicted with incurable diseases, who are without friends or means. Their maintenance is arranged for and paid out of this grant.

Miscellaneous services \$10,000

This amount is a mere estimate to provide for contingencies at present unforeseen. Last year an appropriation of \$44,450 was made by the Legislature for certain specified services, but before the year ended the expenditure amounted to \$60,644.07. It is not possible to furnish details of proposed expenditure under this heading, the only thing at present certain being the fact that there will be expenditures to be provided for.

I trust the foregoing explanations will be found satisfactory and will present to you a clear and definite idea of the necessities of our case. I have but one more matter to refer to. It has already been brought to your notice, but it would seem, from the lines upon which our interview with the sub-committee of Council ran, to be advisable to do so again. I am directing attention to the condition of our finances. We have absolutely and literally no funds. The whole of the last moiety of the Parliamentary grant for 1902-3 has been expended, and we have no money in prospect. Unless a grant of at least one half the amount of the grant for 1903-4 is given supplementary to the grant for the current year, I would impress upon you that all the assistance we can look to from Parliament for the year 1903 will be the moiety of next fiscal year's grant payable on July 1 next. I have already spoken of the balance brought from last year against this year's revenues on account of Public Works. We have also an amount of \$95,721.93 chargeable against this year's fund on account of school grants earned last year. We have asked year after year for grants to enable us to carry on our services adequately, but always without success hitherto. As a result we have

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 116a

had to skimp the services, and even then could not keep our expenditure within our income, so that these balances have been carried forward from year to year until they are now like a rolling snowball beyond control. I would most earnestly impress upon you the necessity existing for asking Parliament to come to our relief. I have shown that the amount that has been asked for is of the most moderate nature. We cannot get along with less, and if Parliament does not relieve us from our financial difficulties, the only alternative before us is to impose further taxes upon the people, and which a very large percentage of them are in no position to bear. What effect that will have upon the Government's immigration work, you will probably be in a much better position to judge than I, but I submit for consideration that it will give direct contradiction to some of the statements at present spread broadcast through the world as inducements to settlers to come to the Northwest. I need not here enlarge upon the argument—for it has been placed before you over and over again—that it is not just to compel us to impose a system of direct taxation upon the Northwest in order to raise the money to carry on our public services. The Dominion appropriates to itself all our natural revenues, and does not accept the consequent responsibility. The effect of direct taxation, too, will be to compel the Western farmers to provide the means for improving the land held by railroad and other corporations for speculative purposes, which is either exempt from taxation or which from circumstances it has not been found feasible to tax. I will not pursue this subject further here. I think I have said enough to convince you that we are asking for nothing more than we should have given to us, and I trust the matter will present itself in that light to the Government.

Acting Territorial Treasurer.

RIDEAU CLUB, OTTAWA, March 19, 1903.

The Honourable CLIFFORD SIFTON,
Minister of the Interior, Ottawa.

As I have remained here for some days since I last saw you, you may have written to me to Regina with reference to the result of the recent interview of Mr. Bulyea and myself with the sub-committee of Council regarding North-west affairs. In case no decision has yet been arrived at or communicated to me, may I ask you to let me have (addressed to Regina) a final reply on behalf of the Government to our request for the creation of a province and for larger financial assistance in the meantime.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

OTTAWA, March 21, 1903.

Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN, Regina, Assa.

I sent a note over to the Rideau Club but found you were gone. The question of your financial arrangements was up for discussion to-day, and Mr. Fielding will communicate with you. The arrangement suggested will, I think, prove reasonably satisfactory.

CLIFFORD SIFTON.

(*Telegram.*)

OTTAWA, April 16, 1903.

To Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN, Regina.

Government will place in supplementary estimates for coming year two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to cover the over-expenditure of the Territories, and also recommend to Parliament an advance on capital account up to \$500,000 from time to time for approved public works. The two bridges which have been specially arranged for to be charged to the capital advance. It will be better that all bridges in the Ter-

3-4 EDWARD VII, A. 1904.

ritories be left to the Territorial Government. Please treat this as confidential for a day or two until I can arange to have it dealt with by Order in Council.

W. S. FIELDING.

(Telegram.)

OTTAWA, April 20, 1903.

The Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Regina, N.W.T.

Will await your letter before taking further action.

W. S. FIELDING.

The Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN, Regina.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 15th instant, as Mr. Fielding has communicated with you already by wire on the subject therein mentioned, I do not suppose that it requires any further reply.

WILFRID LAURIER.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, REGINA, April 20, 1903.

The Hon. W. S. FIELDING,
Minister of Finance, Ottawa.

I have to apologise for the delay which has arisen, but which has been unavoidable, in confirming my telegram of the seventeenth instant reading :

Supplementary vote quite satisfactory if made supplementary to current year. Other propositions absolutely unsatisfactory in method and amount. Conditions here require large increase to annual grant for coming Dominion fiscal year apart from question of capital advance, for which we have made no request. In case capital advance is made unrestricted disposal by local legislature must be allowed and we should strongly protest against any part of cost of replacing Macleod and Lethbridge bridges, both Federal undertakings, being charged. Writing.

The above telegram was sent in reply to your message of the previous day which it would seem well to quote in full as received here.

Government will place in supplementary estimates for coming year two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to cover the over-expenditure of the Territories and also recommend to Parliament an advance of capital account up to five hundred thousand dollars from time to time for approved public works. The two bridges which have been specially arranged for to be charged to the capital advance. It will be better that all bridges in Territories be left to the Territorial government. Please treat this as confidential for a few days until I can arrange to have it dealt with by Order in Council.

It is with much satisfaction that I note that the Government has so far appreciated the position of affairs in the Territories as to approve, in the most practical manner possible, of our methods of administration by providing for the expenditures we found it necessary to incur in the public interest during the year 1902. It would appear, however, to have escaped your observation that the placing of the appropriation to cover our expenditures of last year in the supplementary estimates for the *coming* Dominion fiscal year will have the effect of keeping the money from the Territorial revenue until after the first day of July next. All the representations we have made—both written and oral—have been to the effect that the supplementary appropriation is desired to the *current* fiscal year's appropriations, so that the money may be rendered available at the earliest possible moment. To do otherwise can only embarrass us still further, and I would submit that with a prospective surplus of thirteen million dollars, to a very large extent due to the present flourishing condition of these Territories, the Dominion will not be put to any very serious inconvenience by granting us the money it has been agreed to give us during the month of May instead of July. I trust that upon further

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 116a

consideration of the subject you will see your way clear to recommending the Government to grant our request that the \$250,000 referred to in your telegram be provided for through the supplementary estimates for 1902-3.

Your telegram makes no mention whatever of any proposal to increase our grant for the coming fiscal year. I take it that the suggested advance on capital account has no connection whatever with that subject. In discussing the various phases of the question of Territorial finances, it has been found necessary at times to point out that our limited and inadequate revenues were more restricted, and rendered only more inadequate, by the necessity for making expenditures out of current income which in themselves were more properly chargeable to a capital account. That is to say, we have occasionally found it necessary to incur heavy expenditures for the construction of bridges the cost of which has been a heavy drain upon our revenues, and which should have been spread over a series of years instead of being provided for out of the revenue of one year, to the exclusion of other and equally important works. But we have never asked for the establishment of a capital account, and we do not wish for the establishment of such an account until a more satisfactory subsidy or annual grant is provided. We would even prefer, if possible, to postpone all discussion of the question until the details of the financial position of the Territories under the Provincial status are settled. Whilst the Dominion retains to itself the control and beneficiary interest in our revenue producing property it seems but fair to us that the Dominion should provide all needed funds for the proper carrying on of our business. Further, we cannot assent to any proposition that our expenditures shall be subject to approval at Ottawa. The Legislative Assembly of the Territories has for a number of years been providing for the administration of public affairs in the Territories. What has been done in that regard has met with the approval of the people of the Territories, and this government cannot consent, at this date, to any such proposal as that made in your telegram. In one sense, I quite agree with you that 'it will be better that all bridges in Territories be left to the Territorial Government,' but that proposition must be coupled with another, namely, that adequate financial provision therefor be made by Parliament. The Dominion Government in the first place built the two bridges at Macleod and Lethbridge without reference to the Government of the Territories. It was possible that at the time they were built it was not practicable to do so, but the fact remains that, in pursuance of its general public works policy, the Dominion Government built the two bridges in question and has undertaken to replace them. Under existing conditions, which the Dominion Government does not appear to wish to remedy, we are content to leave that matter as it stands at present.

With respect to the general question of the establishment of a capital account, as I have already stated, we have never asked for such a grant and are not disposed to accept it coupled with the conditions laid down. Even if those conditions are waived we could not agree to the proposal whilst what we consider our just claims to fair treatment from the financial point of view are deliberately set aside and not met. For instance, representations were made on December 17 and January 9 last by Mr. A. L. Sifton, the then Territorial Treasurer, that it was necessary that Parliament should be asked to provide for the expenditure of the sum of \$880,000 during the year 1903, upon the services devolving upon the Government of the Territories. On February 21, whilst in Ottawa and at the request of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, I submitted a carefully detailed statement of our affairs, showing the nature of the requirements of the country, and pointing out particularly that the public necessities were to a very large extent due to the rapid influx of population, a cause entirely beyond our control but which, to some extent, may be attributed to the Dominion Government's efforts to direct immigration to the West. I also pointed out that between December and February conditions had so far changed that the amount asked for in December would be entirely insufficient to provide for necessary expenditures in new and unforeseen directions. In December, we asked that Parliament should provide \$880,000 for our use during 1903. As a reply to that request, the Government proposes to vote \$457,979. This is the same amount as was voted last year and which fell short of the smallest possible expenditure we could make by \$250,000. Climatic conditions created a general and urgent necessity

3-4 EDWARD VII, A. 1904.

for replacing a large number of bridges that had been carried away by floods, but that necessity only made it impossible for us to consider other public undertakings of comparatively less urgency, but which are all calling for attention this year. If we were \$250,000 short last year, what we will be this year with increased demands and necessities in every direction, I can safely leave you to form your own estimate.

Without going over the ground again I would here simply say that if we have found the necessity for making capital expenditures out of an annual income a particularly onerous burden, the difficulties of our financial position will be rendered only the greater by the strong temptation to draw upon a capital account, should such an account be established, for expenditures that should, under every rule of legitimate finance, be provided for only out of annual income, but which condition of affairs would be forced upon us by the manner in which the Dominion government fulfils its self-imposed duty of providing for the peace, order and good government of these territories.

I trust that the further consideration of this whole subject, promised in your telegram of this date, will result in some more definite recognition of our necessities than has hitherto been evidenced. The one, and the best solution of all these difficulties has, on several occasions of late, been suggested to the Dominion government, and it seems to me that I might well close this communication by an expression of the opinion that just so long as the provincial status is withheld from the territories will it be necessary for the government of the territories to direct attention with increasing force and emphasis to the present unsatisfactory manner of making financial provision for the public requirements of the country.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, REGINA, June 2, 1903.

The Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER, G.C.M.G,
President Privy Council,
Ottawa, Ont.

I have the honour on behalf of the North-west Government, to again ask for a reply to the requests set out in my letter to you of the 15th April last. Acknowledging that letter on April 20, you say 'As Mr. Fielding has communicated with you already by wire on the subject therein mentioned, I do not suppose that it requires any further reply.' Mr. Fielding's telegram of April 16, was a confidential and informal proposition, and only dealt with the financial position. On April 17, I telegraphed Mr. Fielding our objections to his proposition, and informed him that I was writing on the subject. On April 20 Mr. Fielding telegraphed 'Will await your letter before taking further action.' My letter to Mr. Fielding was dated April 20. On April 25, the Territorial Legislature adjourned for six weeks to await the decision of the Federal Government with regard to the North-west grant, and up to the present time no further communication on the subject has been received by us. In further reference to your letter of April 20, I beg to point out that Mr. Fielding's telegram does not deal with the most important part of my letter of April 16, namely our request for provincial institutions, and I would most respectfully urge that our representations on this important question merit some further reply than can be gathered by implication from the fact that Mr. Fielding does not refer to them.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

(Telegram.)

Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Regina, N.W.T.

OTTAWA, June 6, 1903.

Referring to previous communications we do not understand your reference to certain bridges as federal undertakings. Highway bridges of a similar character in all the provinces are provincial undertakings, and there does not appear to be any reason

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 116a

why, in the case of the North-west, they should not be treated as other public works coming under authority of the local government. Our view is that we should provide a liberal allowance for the North-west Government and leave you to deal with the management of all such roads and bridges as in the case of the provinces fall under local control.

As to capital account, we have no disposition to impose unnecessary restrictions. In the case of provincial governments desiring advances from their capital account, the applications are subject to the approval of the Governor in Council. We do not anticipate any difficulty on this score, but we see no reason why the rule which exists as respects all the provinces should not apply also to the capital account of the North-west Territories.

We will propose to Parliament, by supplementary estimates or otherwise, during the present session, to make provision for the government of the North-west Territories as follows:—

| | |
|--|------------|
| To provide for over-expenditure already made | \$ 250,000 |
| Grant for schools and other purposes for fiscal year 1903-4 in addition to amount provided in main estimates | 250,000 |

Advances from time to time as required for local improvements on capital account, \$250,000. The two bridges mentioned to be a charge against this capital account.

W. S. FIELDING,
Minister of Finance.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, REGINA, June 15, 1903.

The Hon. W. S. FIELDING,
Minister of Finance,
Ottawa, Ont.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the sixth instant, an earlier acknowledgment of which has been postponed in the expectation of receiving some written confirmation of it.

With regard to the proposed provision for the Government of the North-west Territories, I would say that the supplementary vote of \$250,000 for over expenditure will be a very welcome addition to the slender resources of the territories. The addition of \$250,000 to the amount provided in the main estimates, while helpful so far as it goes, falls far short of the amount requested by us and shown to be absolutely necessary in the various statements already submitted.

My reference to the Macleod and Lethbridge bridges as 'federal undertakings,' was based on the fact that the structures they are intended to replace were built by the Federal Government and that the Federal Government had already undertaken to pay for them under the arrangements referred to in your telegram of April 16. I might further say that highway bridges of a similar character have not always been dealt with as provincial undertakings.

A reference to the Dominion Appropriation Acts for the seven years from 1896 to 1902 (both inclusive) and the estimates for 1903-4 will show votes aggregating \$716,000 for roads and bridges, most of which might equally appropriately be designated 'provincial undertakings.' I would also urge that the Territories are entitled to some expenditure for works of urgent necessity as a small offset to the large expenditure made in the provinces for 'public works.'

I would further respectfully submit that the argument of 'provincial undertakings' does not apply to the Territories. I need hardly remind you that the Territories are not a province and that they do not enjoy the revenues or powers of a province, and further that it is the opinion of the government and legislature of the Territories that the 'liberal allowance' you provide is not liberal enough to establish an analogy. We are not only ready but anxious to assume responsibility for all provincial undertakings,

3-4 EDWARD VII, A. 1904.

and with that end in view have been pressing for the granting of provincial institutions to the Territories.

With regard to the question of an advance on capital account I can only refer to my letter of April 20, and the position therein taken up. An advance on capital account is nothing more or less than a loan upon which eventually we should have to pay 5 per cent per annum. We feel indisposed to consider an invitation to borrow money as a satisfactory settlement of our request for the necessary amounts to carry on the affairs of this country. At all events the proposition to give us an advance on capital account of \$250,000, already debited with \$84,000 for the bridges mentioned above, is one which we cannot entertain. We cannot reasonably object to the requirement of the consent of the Governor in Council to any broad scheme of expenditure under this heading, but to be obliged to ask such consent to every detail would be as burdensome as it would be unnecessary. After all, the money would be advanced to the people of the Territories and its proper expenditure might safely be entrusted to their responsible government and legislature.

In conclusion, may I ask for a reconsideration of your decision to charge the two bridges in question to any advance which may be agreed upon, and also to give me some more definite information with regard to the mode of advance, the date upon which interest would begin to run and the information required for obtaining the consent of the Governor in Council.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, REGINA, June 16, 1903.

(Personal.)

The Right Honourable

Sir WILFRID LAURIER, G.C.M.G.,
Premier of Canada, Ottawa.

You will please excuse the liberty I take in addressing you, if it is a liberty to lay before you facts that I consider will be of material influence on the welfare of the Liberal party in the North-west Territories.

You are, of course, cognizant of all the representations that the Territorial Government have made in reference to increase of the financial assistance that is voted to us from time to time, and the arguments that have been advanced why a material increase is absolutely necessary, if the alternative of provincial autonomy were not granted to us. I have had considerable correspondence with the Federal members representing the Territories, who were kind enough to apprise me of the general representations they had made to your Government, and I advised them that I consider that if such were adopted it would reasonably satisfy the general public in the Territories, and would put your candidates and your supporters in the coming election in a position in which they could fight with zeal and, I am pleased to say, with every prospect of success.

The supplementary grant, and the addition to the main vote, while not as much as we asked for, will be of very material assistance to me in the work of my Department as Commissioner of Public Works. The capital advance tendered is also needed for the construction of the large and permanent structures that must be completed to meet the requirements of the large influx of settlers into the country.

I regret to say, however, that not only as a member of the Territorial Government, but as a citizen of the North-west Territories, I must dissent most strongly from the proposition to charge up against this vote the large expenditure of \$84,000 which is purely and simply for the reconstruction of two federal public works, viz:—the bridges over the Old Man's and Belly rivers, erected by the late Conservative government.

During the floods of last year these two bridges were washed out, and your government, through its officers, agreed to have them replaced by permanent structures. Your officers in the Territories reported on the necessity of such reconstruction, took charge of the old bridges, and sold the old material. Later, through the late Commissioner of

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 116a

Public Works, the Hon. A. L. Sifton, the matter was taken up with the Federal Public Works Department, and as we have a fairly large staff of competent bridgemen, and have been very successful in the construction of bridges of a less size than these, it was arranged that the Territorial Government should proceed with the construction of the bridges, and that they would be recouped for such expenditure to the amount of \$55,000 in the case of the bridge over the Belly river at Lethbridge, and \$29,000 in the case of the bridge over the Old Man's river at Macleod.

For your information I attach a copy of extract from the report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency on February 6, 1903.

On the authority of this Order in Council my department proceeded with the work. Considerable preliminary work has already been done in making the necessary approaches to the bridges, tenders have been called both for the material and the concrete piers, and for the steel superstructure, and I maintain that the Federal Government cannot, in honour, recede from the position that they have taken as shown by this Order in Council, even if there were no political reasons for carrying out their definite agreement in this matter.

Official correspondence from this government will no doubt be laid before you in due course, protesting against the suggested charges, and while the matter is, in a sense, sub judice, we cannot of course proceed to use the suggested advance on our capital account.

I trust, therefore, that you will see the necessity of meeting the reasonable views not only of the North-west Government but of your friends who are members of the Territorial Assembly, and who uphold unanimously our government in claiming that the territories are entitled to have these Federal structures replaced at the general expense of the Dominion of Canada.

GEO. H. V. BULYEA.

The undersigned members of the Legislative Assembly strongly approve of the tenor of the above letter:—

GEORGE W. BROWN.
L. GEO. DE VETER.
J. W. WOOLF.
W. J. FINLEY
C. A. FISHER.
A. D. MCINTYRE.
CHARLES FISHER.
A. S. SMITH.

P. TALBOT.
B. PRINCE.
R. A. WALLACE.
J. A. SIMPSON.
A. S. ROSENROLL.
THOS. MACNUTT.
ALEX. C. RUTHERFORD.

EXTRACT from a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency on February 6, 1903.

On a report dated February 4, 1903, from the Minister of Public Works, stating that an Order in Council was passed on December 5, 1902, authorizing the placing of the sums of \$40,000 and \$20,000, respectively, in the estimates to be submitted to parliament, at its next session, to recoup the Government of the North-west Territories, the cost of the steel bridges which are to be erected over the Belly River at Lethbridge and the Old Man's River at Macleod, to replace those which were carried away by the freshets of 1901, the superstructure of the said bridges to be of steel and the substructure of crib and pile work.

The minister states that representations have since been made by the Commissioner of Public Works of the North-west Territories to the effect that upon further consideration of the question of the construction of these bridges, he has come to the conclusion that it would be advisable to build the bridges upon permanent concrete foundations, instead of crib and pile work, as originally intended, as this mode of construction would

3-4 EDWARD VII, A. 1904.

ensure the greater stability of the structures and remove in a large measure, the possibility of a recurrence of the disasters of 1901;

That it is estimated the change proposed in the construction would bring the cost of the bridges to the following figures:—

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Belly River Bridge..... | \$55,000 |
| Old Man's River Bridge..... | 29,000 |

The minister, concurring in the views expressed by the Commissioner of Public Works, recommends that the Order in Council above mentioned be amended accordingly, and that authority be given to include in the estimates to be submitted to Parliament, at its next session, the sums of \$55,000 and \$29,000 respectively, instead of \$40,000 and \$20,000, to recoup the Government of the North-west Territories the cost of the bridges to be erected over the Belly River and the Old Man's River as stated above.

The Committee submit the same for approval.

JOHN J. McGEE,

Clerk of the Privy Council.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, REGINA, April 24, 1903.

The Honourable
The Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

I have the honour to forward herewith, for transmission to His Excellency the Governor General, the enclosed Address to His Excellency, from the Legislative Assembly of the North-west Territories, upon the present constitutional and financial condition of the North-west Territories.

A. E. FORGET,
Lieutenant Governor.

1. Whereas by the British North America Act, 1867, it was (amongst other things) enacted that it should be lawful for the Queen, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, on Address from the Houses of the Parliament of Canada, to admit Rupert's Land and the North-western Territory, or either of them, into the Union on such terms and conditions in each case as should be in the Addresses expressed and as the Queen should think fit to approve subject to the provisions of the said Act.

2. And whereas by an address from the Houses of the Parliament of Canada, Her Majesty was prayed to unite Rupert's Land and North-western Territory with the Dominion of Canada:

3. And whereas, in order to further the petition of the Parliament of Canada Her Majesty, under the authority of The Rupert's Land Act, 1868, accepted a surrender from the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England, trading into Hudson's Bay of all the lands, territories, rights, privileges, liberties, franchises, powers and authorities, whatsoever granted or purported to be granted by certain letters patent therein recited to the said Company in Rupert's Land:

4. And whereas in the said address it was represented to Her Majesty, as a reason for the extension of the Dominion of Canada westward, that the welfare of the population of these Territories would be materially enhanced by the formation therein of political institutions bearing analogy, as far as circumstances will admit, to those which existed in the several provinces then forming the Dominion:

5. And whereas the Houses of the Parliament of Canada by their said address expressed to Her Majesty their willingness to assume the duties and obligations of government and legislation as regards these Territories:

6. And whereas in pursuance and exercise of the powers vested in the Queen by the aforesaid Act, Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Most Honourable Privy

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 116a

Council, ordered and declared that from and after the fifteenth day of July, 1870, Rupert's Land and the North-western Territory should be admitted into and become part of the Dominion of Canada, and granted power and authority to the Parliament of Canada to legislate for the future welfare and good government of these Territories :

7. And whereas by the British North America Act, 1871, the Parliament of Canada was further given power from time to time to make provision for the administration, peace, order and good government of any Territory not for the time being included in any Province :

8. And whereas under the several authorities so given the Parliament of Canada has created political institutions in these Territories bearing a close analogy to those which exist in the several Provinces of the Dominion :

9. And whereas by the Confederation compact the Provinces which formed the Dominion on the fifteenth day of July, 1870, were furnished with the means of carrying on local self-government upon certain well defined bases :

10. And whereas the Territories, being an integral part of the Dominion, and having had imposed upon them the duties and obligations incidental to the political institutions which have been given to them and said duties and obligations the Parliament of Canada has declared its willingness to assume, are entitled to such Federal assistance for their maintenance as will bear due proportion and analogy to that given to other portions of the Dominion for similar purposes :

11. And whereas repeated representations have been made in various ways to the Government of Canada with a view to obtaining just and equitable financial assistance towards providing for the proper and effective administration of local affairs in the Territories and for the public necessities of their rapidly increasing population.

12. And whereas such representations have been met by intermittent and insufficient additions to the annual grant, the provisions so made by the Parliament of Canada never bearing any adequate proportion to the financial obligations imposed by the enlargement and development of the political institutions created by itself.

13. And whereas it is desirable that a basis should be established upon which the claims of the Territories to suitable financial recognition may be settled and agreed upon.

14. Therefore, be it resolved, that an humble Address to His Excellency the Governor General be adopted by this House praying him that he will be pleased to cause the fullest inquiry to be made into the position of the Territories, financial and otherwise, and to cause such action to be taken as will provide for their present and immediate welfare and good government, as well as the due fulfilment of the duties and obligations of government and legislation assumed, with respect to these Territories, by the Parliament of Canada.

15. And be it further resolved, that, whereas by the British North America Act, 1871, it was (amongst other things enacted that the Parliament of Canada may from time to time establish new Provinces in any Territories forming for the time being part of the Dominion of Canada, but not included in any Province thereof, and may, at the time of such establishment, make provision for the constitution and administration of _____ such Province, His Excellency be also prayed to order inquiries to be made and accounts taken with a view to the settlement of the terms and conditions upon which the Territories or any part thereof shall be established as a Province, and that before any such Province is established opportunity should be given to the people of the Territories through their accredited representatives of considering and discussing such terms and conditions.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
OTTAWA, April 29, 1903.

His Honour

The Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Territories,
Regina, N.W.T.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 24th instant, enclosing an Address to His Excellency from the Legislative Assembly of the North-west

3-4 EDWARD VII, A. 1904.

Territories upon the present constitutional and financial condition of the North-west Territories, and to state that the same has been duly submitted to the Governor General in Council.

P. PELLETIER,
Acting Under-Secretary of State.

